

A Fish Disease Lab, and Fisheries and Oceanic Expositions

....Ground was broken for a \$4 million fish disease laboratory at Leetown, W. Va. on 20 December by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The 2-year expansion program, tripling present space to 30,000 square feet, will make the Eastern Fish Disease Laboratory one of the most modern fish health research facilities in the world, the FWS reports. The two-story lab will feature solar heating, and the FWS will be able to combine fish husbandry training schools with the existing Leetown school of fish diseases....

....The Law of the Sea Institute tenth annual conference is scheduled for 22-24 June 1976 in Kingston, R.I., the institute reports. Its theme will be "Law of the Sea: Projections of Implementations." Further information is available from The Law of the Sea Institute, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881....

....An international symposium on the "Ecology and Management of Some Tropical Shallow Water Communities" will be held 27 June-11 July 1976 at Jakarta and Ujung Pandang Island, Indonesia. Sponsored by the Western Society of Naturalists and Indonesia's Institute of Sciences, the meeting is being held to learn more about the ecology of shallow water communities in order to develop plans for a rational use of their resources. More information is available from David H. Montgomery, Secretary, The Western Society of Naturalists, Biological Sciences Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93047....

....U.S. Coast Guard rescue units may "bag" sinking boats in the future with newly developed Emergency Flotation Bags (EFB's). Distributed to many Coast Guard units, the large

inflatable bags are designed to supplement the dewatering pump kits already used to assist sinking vessels. One or more of the EFB's stuffed into empty compartments or lashed to the hull provides the buoyancy needed to get the distressed boat towed to safety....

....The 1976 Australian Fisheries Exposition will be staged in Melbourne, Australia 21-23 September 1976, with a three-day fisheries seminar to be held in conjunction with it, according to *Australian Fisheries*. More information on the Expo is available from the Convenor, Australian Fisheries Exposition, GPO Box 2246U, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3001....

....A 26-inch minimum size limit for sport-caught king salmon has been set for Southeastern Alaska by the Alaska Board of Fisheries according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The new minimum size limit applies in salt water from Dixon Entrance to Cape Suckling and undersize kings must be returned to the water immediately....

....Planet Ocean, a permanent ocean science exposition in Miami, Fla., was opened to the public in mid-December, the International Oceanographic Foundation reports. The \$6 million ocean environment center has been named by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) as one of only 11 projects in the country in the Horizons 76 program. Some of the exhibits include a 7-foot iceberg, working models of tidal power stations, exhibits of hydrogen fuel energy, submarines, ship models, and other film and slide presentations....

....Fear of shark attack by South Australian abalone divers is blamed for an abalone catch decline in recent years, *Australian Fisheries* reports. Several divers are now working on various self-propelled underwater

shark-proof cages. If effective, the Abalone Divers Association expects that catch effort and diver confidence will both rise, and that most working abalone divers in South Australia will eventually be protected by such cages....

....Two more Liberty Ships may be added to California's Santa Monica Bay artificial reef if another such vessel, sunk there last spring in a pilot project, succeeds, the Department of Fish and Game reports. A \$75,000 limit has been set to fund the program. The second and third vessels are set to be sunk 3½ miles from Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura County, and 6 miles from Newport Harbor, Orange County, respectively. California has built 10 offshore ocean and Salton Sea reefs and pier reefs to improve marine habitat and promote fishing....

....December's 3 million-pound coastal crab catch gave Washington State crab pot fishers their best opening month in four seasons, the Department of Fisheries reports. The large catch was credited to an unusual number of fishing days. Good weather and sea conditions enabled crabbers to check their pots as many as 21 days. More frequent lifting and rebaiting of pots reduced crab losses and tended to improve landings in both quantity and quality, state officials noted....

....Australia's marine product export value hit \$71 million, during the 1974-75 fiscal year, exceeding exports by \$175,000, according to *Australian Fisheries*. The total was almost \$2 million over the previous 12-month period. Edible marine products were valued at \$68.2 million versus imports of edible fish products of \$61.7 million. Rock lobster tails were the most important export, as the value increased from \$25.8 million in 1973-74 to \$32 million, and the quantity rose from 3,784 to 4,193 metric tons; the United States remained the main market. Cultured pearls, at \$1.5 million, was the main inedible fishery product....

....Japan now has 155 vessels fishing for squid off New Zealand, according to a *Suisan Keizai Shinbun* report. As last season, the fishery runs from 1 November to 30 June. Japan's squid catch during the previous season was 18,224 metric tons by 151 vessels....